

BLUE'S ROBBERY.

THIS IS WHAT HELPED BRING KANSAS TO DISGRACE.

A Loud-Mouthed Redeemer Whose Business Is Swindling the Public, and Who Ought to Be In Prison.

It is now time to acquaint the people of Kansas with the bank and mortgage record of R. W. Blue, candidate for congressman-at-large upon the republican ticket. Being one of the victims of the alleged "failure" of the Citizens bank of Mound City, Linn county, Kas., I am financially interested in the affairs of that bank, which was claimed to be the very best bank in Linn county, in fact, a particularly bright star in the constellation of financial institutions which have been persistently pointed to with pride by our republican leaders and press as being "the best banking system on earth." We now find that, notwithstanding the alleged "safe and conservative" character of the institution with which we will show how closely Mr. Blue was connected, it had some peculiar characteristics not set forth in its glittering prospectus. The bank was organized in May, 1887, and failed in July, 1893, Mr. Blue being "in on the ground floor" in the start, and safely "over the fence and out" when the failure occurred. I was one of a committee of three appointed to examine the books, and as each of the committee was a victim of the crash, we had fairly paid for the information we might obtain, although we were not aware what the developments might be. The bank failed on June 19, 1893, with \$190,000 of individual deposits as one item of their liability, in addition to \$49,400 paid-up stock, which had also been swallowed up.

Now, when the bank examiner walked into this safe and conservative institution on the above date, and put his hand on the money drawer and safe, he found, as a basis for this liability of \$193,400, only \$1,579.62 in cash, and about \$149,000 in notes. We, as depositors, were assured by the president, cashier, and R. W. Blue, director, up to the very day of the failure, that the bank was perfectly safe; and, as one evidence of the confidence we had in their assurances, based, of course, on our belief in their honesty and integrity, we call attention to the fact that there was no run made on the bank by depositors, as the statement of its condition made to the bank commissioner on June 20, 1893, one month previous to the failure, shows \$119,000 individual deposits. As evidence of the worse than rotten character of the paper (in general, which is turned over to us as assets by this gang of genteel freebooters and legalized Dalton), we call attention to the fact that the names of the stockholders of the institution are attached to \$103,000 out of the \$149,000 in notes, and, as evidence of the share that Mr. Blue had in the transaction, I call attention to the fact that his name as principal is attached to \$8,657.64. He had \$2,000 in stock, upon which he had paid but \$800, leaving him liable as stockholder, for \$3,200, making him debtor in the total sum of \$12,057.64. Now, no one would imagine for a moment that one of the foremost "redeemers" of Kansas, one of the brightest apostles of "honest dollars," would obligate himself in this manner to the citizens of his own county, his neighbors and friends—some of whom are widows and orphans—without depositing collat-

eral security. As a matter of fact, he did not do so, as we find the following valuable papers attached to his notes: \$2,000 in bonds and \$8,000 in stock of "The Oklahoma City Ditch and Water Power company," which was a scheme by which the waters of the Canadian river were to be diverted into Oklahoma City for water purposes. The brilliant Napoleons who engineered that enterprise dug part of a ditch, turned the water into it. It caved in—never did hold water—and is now plowed under and in wheat. They turned \$10,000 of the stock and bonds into our bank, and it also caved in, and is now in the hands of a receiver.

If R. W. Blue had gone to a bank with which he was not officially connected and induced them to discount his notes, it would have been a commercial transaction; but bear in mind he was one of the directors of our bank—one of the trustees, as it were, of the frugal savings of his neighbors and friends. He not only stood as a financial but as a moral guaranty for the institution. Note the result: The depositors are handed his personal fiat (which is worthless) and his collateral fiat (which is worse than worthless) in lieu of the good dollars deposited in his "safe and conservative" bank. Not only that, but the records show that these stockholders and directors met and declared and paid themselves a dividend of 16 per cent. upon their stock, and of course, that dividend was based mainly upon their own worthless notes that are now handed to us as assets. This dividend was paid December 16, 1892, just seven months before they failed. Just sixty days previous to that date, R. W. Blue made a speech in our opera house. Placing a \$20 gold piece in the palm of his hand and displaying it to the audience, he spoke in his well known sepulchral tones, as follows:

"That's the kind of money we want; that's the only kind of money upon which we can base permanent and progressive prosperity. Why, my friends, if you were supplied with this kind of money, your little home might burn down at night, yet you could rake your money from the ashes the next morning purer than before the fire. It's eternal and indestructible—in fact, my friends, it's God's money!"

I know now, but did not know then, that every cent of it belonged to the depositors in his own bank, and that it was "God's money" only in the sense that it belonged in part to the widows and orphans of the community, and represented the hard work and self-denial of men and women who earn their money by honest toil, as God had ordained.

HIS MORTGAGE RECORD.

Now for the mortgage record of R. W. Blue. I will be as brief as possible:

"The Kansas Land, Loan and Trust company" was organized in Linn county, in 1885, with Robert Kincaid as president, and R. W. Blue as vice president. They represented that, if we must have mortgaged homes, it's better that they be mortgaged in a "home company." They proceeded to do business before they had complied with our state law, so anxious were they to accumulate "honest dollars." Russell Cassida, a Linn county neighbor and farmer, went to Robert Kincaid to borrow \$700 to pay a note upon which he was security, and upon which the principal party had defaulted. R. W. Blue drew up the mortgage, and Kincaid gave Cassida the money. Time elapsed; Cassida sold some cattle, took the \$700 to Kincaid, from whom he received it, also paid \$10 interest due from the payment of the last coupon, and Kincaid

gave him a receipt for \$710, specifying that \$700 was to apply on the mortgage and \$10 on the interest, but he failed to sign the receipt as president of the company! Now, we find that Kincaid, the president, kept the money, and in the office of the district court of Linn county, we further find case No. 3330, foreclosing a mortgage on Cassida's farm, and R. W. Blue, the vice president of the company, is attorney for the plaintiff.

Cassida has the receipt showing that he paid every farthing of the principal and interest of the debt. Instead of prosecuting his own president for embezzling the funds of the company of which he is vice president, he is compelling the farmer for whom he professes such great friendship (on the stump) to plow the debt from the ground a second time. Cassida is not a fool nor a lawyer, but an honest man, who paid the money back to the man from whom he received it; and now he is asked to assist by his vote in sending the lawyer to congress who is compelling him to pay it a second time.

Now, if there are any persons who dare dispute or question the facts as herein set forth, listen to the challenge I make: Appoint your own committee, meet me at Mound City, and if I don't prove the items and dates and amounts for each by the sworn statement of the receiver of the bank, and by the books of the bank, then I will contribute \$10 to the campaign fund of your party. (I have one \$10 note the gang didn't get.)

If the people of Kansas send this man to congress in the face of these facts, then the motto quoted as an incentive to our ambitious boys, "Beyond the Alps Lies Italy," should be obliterated from Kansas text-books, and in its stead should be written, "Beyond a looted bank lies a seat in congress." The man who claims that the fiat of 70 million of freemen, who offer as collateral security the fairest and richest territory marked on the maps of the world, is not a sound financial basis, is now and has been for sixty days past making a campaign for congress upon the "God's money" of his neighbors—myself included—for which he exchanged his own personal fiat, without their knowledge or consent.

The United States district attorney at Chicago, in his plea against Mr. Eugene V. Debs, advances the argument: "While we do not claim that Debs directly instructed his men to commit acts of violence and destroy property, we claim that he is criminally responsible for the same, as it was an indirect result of the proceedings of the organization of which he was a principal leader." Hark, my fellow citizens of Kansas, let us apply that logic in this case, and see where it places us: There are three newly-made graves in Linn county marking the resting places of persons who died from desperation, despondency and grief, caused by losses in this bank failure. Apply the United States district attorney's logic to their case, and ask, Are not the parties who caused the failure of the bank indirectly responsible for the existence of those graves?

My knowledge of the facts in this affair cost me \$800; therefore, I have no hesitation in making use of it, and I give it to the public without charge, and openly dare any person to challenge it, and earnestly entreat all fair-minded citizens to investigate.

Blue Mound, Kas. W. W. KIRBY.

When Chester I. Long was making his tour through the western counties a few weeks since, the Santa Fe company ordered the train men to stop at Ness City one and one-half hours for the accommodation of Mr. Long. When the train reached that point, the would-be con-

Distress in the Stomach

"I had trouble with my stomach for a long time and could not get anything that would do me any good. Last February I had



Mrs. E. Champlin. When I had taken two bottles I could eat anything without having the least bit of distress. I have only taken five bottles and my general health is much better." ED. CHAMPLIN, Groton City, New York.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures

Hood's Pills should be in every household.

gressman took his grip in hand and marched alone up to the city, and inquired of the boys on the street where the meeting was to be held, and he was informed that no such meeting had been advertised for that place. Mr. Long went back to the train muttering something that sounded like a forcible Bible quotation, and told the conductor to pull out of that place as soon as he could. They went on westward until they came to where a crowd of people had gathered in a little grove on the creek, and here Mr. Long asked the conductor to wait an hour and a half while he told the assembled people what he knew about Jerry Simpson and Governor Lewelling. This was a clear case of detaining the United States mail, but as it was a republican candidate for congress it seems to be all right. Who says the Santa Fe railroad is not a prominent factor in the republican party of Kansas?—Barton Bacon, October 4.

Annual Meeting.

The seventh annual meeting of the Kansas State Alliance will convene at Trades Assembly hall in the city of Topeka on Wednesday, December 5, 1894. The representation is one delegate from each organized county and one delegate for each 200 members or majority fraction thereof according to the (county) secretaries' reports for the quarter ending September 30, 1894. Each unorganized county having one or more sub-Alliances is entitled to one delegate.

Delegates to the State Alliance "shall not be entitled to seats in the body unless all fees and dues to the state have been paid according to article 7, section 2, of the state constitution."

Delegates to this meeting must be elected at the October meeting of the county alliance and the county secretaries should report the name and post-office address of each delegate to the secretary of the state Alliance immediately after the adjournment of the county meetings. Act promptly and prepare to have one of the largest and most enthusiastic meetings of the order.

Fraternally,

Attest: W. S. HANNA,
J. B. FRENCH, State President.
Secretary.

People's Party Pin-Badge and Button.

The league of this city offers the People's party a fine pin-badge made of orsile and aluminum. The word "Law-elling" is on the pin, and "We are proud of Kansas" is on the pendant. This badge is sent by mail for 25 cents, \$1.85 per dozen. They are also sole agents for a button which can be worn in lapel of the coat or as a sleeve button. It has on it the photograph of Governor Lewelling. Price 10 cents, 75 cents per dozen. These are just the thing, and every voter should wear one and show his colors. Address, PEOPLE'S PARTY LEAGUE, 118 East Eighth st., Topeka, Kas.